

Women in Afghanistan suspected of adultery are threatened with death by stoning, as are women in Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

While I could continue with gruesome details and statistics on the subject, I think the point is made. There is nothing honorable about whipping one's wife because one suspects her of adultery. There is nothing honorable about throwing acid on a daughter because she marries without permission. This is simply a horrid remnant of ancient cultures which places no value on the lives of women, and that must be addressed.

Unfortunately, as much as I wish it would, this amendment will not end this ghastly form of violence against women. However, it is an opportunity for the Congress of the United States to go on record and state clearly and resoundingly that these crimes should stop, and it is an opportunity to call for the U.S. Government to use its considerable resources to reduce the incidence of these crimes.

It is my hope as well that this amendment will call national attention to this horrible form of violence against women, and begin to get the ball rolling on a multinational effort to end this practice. An individual honor crime is not just an attack on one woman, it is an attack on the entire gender, and a violation of the most basic of human rights, the right to exist as a person and the right to personal autonomy.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve my point of order on the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The point of order is reserved.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the honorable gentleman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. Thousands of women are maimed or killed each year in nations across the developing world because they have committed what their relatives or neighbors perceive as a crime of honor.

I have met with some of these women who have had acid thrown in their faces, who clearly are maimed, because in someone's eyes they did wrong. Whether their supposed offense is adultery, the desire for a divorce, refusing an arranged marriage, or having the nerve to fetch a lower-than-expected dowry, the punishment is always swift, severe, and outrageous.

Throughout the world women face flogging, forced suicides, stoning, beheading, burning, and other violent punishments for their actions. Rarely does anyone from the community offer to help. Even local government officials turn a blind eye to this terrible practice.

This amendment highlights how very important it is to do more to stop

honor killings around the world. Shining a flashlight on this practice, putting the full moral weight of the United States behind a campaign to end it, is critical if we are going to ensure the fundamental human rights of women. We simply must do more to stop these cowardly attacks.

I urge Members to vote yes. For those in doubt, I just wish they could see the faces of these women who have been tortured, who have been maimed, who have had acid thrown in their faces, just because they committed a crime that the community thought was not right, but we understand that they have the right to live their lives in peace and in dignity.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment that condemns honor crimes against women.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in support of this amendment that condemns so-called "honor crimes." In countries around the world, women are beaten and killed by male members of their families after being accused of being unfaithful or acting in ways that embarrass the family.

According to Amnesty International the brutal practice of "honor killings" in Pakistan results in several hundred women being killed each year for suspected affairs, for seeking divorce, and for being raped.

In Jordan in the 1990s, an average of 20 women were killed every year.

In India in 1998, 286 women were victims of "honor killings" in Punjab alone. In the first quarter of 1999, 132 "honor killings" were documented in Sindh.

Domestic laws do not protect women who fall victim to this crime. For example, under Article 340 of Jordan's Penal Code, men are exempt from punishment who kill female relatives found or suspected of committing adultery and reduces sentences against those who kill unmarried female relatives who have affairs.

I support the amendment's call to increase investment of U.S. foreign assistance programs designed to investigate and document "honor killings." I would also like to see our assistance support initiatives that conduct public education campaigns about women's equality, with an emphasis on educating law enforcement officers and judges and that provide rehabilitative services to threatened and abused women.

Mr. Chairman, as we continue to expand and deepen our influence around the globe, protection of women and girls from this kind of barbaric behavior must be at the top of our agenda.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I will not belabor the point, but I think it is a simple enough thing to ask that this House go on record urging the United States government, the Executive Branch, to use its resources to stop these killings, to

stop this remnant of a former barbarous age.

I hope that despite whatever technicalities there may be, that this in effect precatory amendment can be adopted.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### POINT OF ORDER

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) insist on his point of order?

Mr. CALLAHAN. I make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill, and therefore violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part: "An amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if changing existing law. . . ."

I ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) wish to address the point of order?

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I understand the reasoning behind the gentleman's point of order. I agree with him that we must be very wary about legislating on appropriations bills, which we do too often in this House.

However, I believe two things: one, that this is a situation that begs our immediate attention. This amendment is in the form of a nonbinding resolution calling on the United States government to begin to address this issue with world leaders and the United Nations. I would hope we could make this statement here today.

Two, I would also point out that I do not really believe this changes existing law. This simply urges the Executive Branch to do certain things. It is not binding. It does not change the law. The law is a binding rule, that is what the dictionary defines the law as. Therefore, it does not meet that definition. It does not change the law.

I would submit it is not, therefore, legislating on an appropriation bill.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) proposes to express a legislative sentiment of the Congress. As such, the amendment constitutes legislation on a general appropriation bill, in violation of clause 2, rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained and the amendment is not in order.

Are there further amendments to this section of the bill?

If not, the Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE VI—MOZAMBIQUE, MADAGASCAR, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, namely: